

# THE SWEYNE PARK TIMES

## Hidden Figures

Shelagh Badger reporting...

The Year 12 AS Media Studies group have been preparing for the forthcoming examinations by studying issues surrounding REPRESENTATION in the media. With the release of the film 'Hidden Figures' there was an opportunity to visit the cinema and explore the treatment of black women working for NASA in the 1960s. Race relations, embedded racial prejudice and mathematics are the powerful themes that drive the narrative of this film and are illustrated in the treatment of the main characters both as women in a man's world and blacks in a white world. The film provided a thought-provoking experience which enabled the students to add another textual example to their examination preparation, one which helped them to consider representation of an historical era and way of life, but also issues of gender and ethnicity.



### Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

#### WELCOME BACK

I hope everyone has enjoyed a relaxing break and that our pupils are returning for another productive term. As always, please do ensure your children are punctual for school and wearing the correct uniform. Your help in this regard is much appreciated and, if you have any questions about this or any other matter, please do feel free to contact the relevant Head of Year.

#### PREMISES UPDATE

Over the holidays, our in-house Premises Team has been busy completely refurbishing the old IT room in the Geography area (HU9) and, when this opens later next week, it is going to be a fantastic new classroom for our pupils. Essex has also started work on the new flood defence project on the main field. Unfortunately this will, inevitably, lead to some disruption to the PE department. However, lessons can still take place outside, and the net result will be that

local residents will be protected from potential floods in the future, and so I am sure you will agree it is important that this work takes place. We are also hoping to secure some repairs to the potholes at the Cheapside West entrance at the end of the project. Watch this space!

#### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

As in previous years, we are now starting work in earnest to plan our priorities as a school for next year. To this end, as well as internal surveys for pupils, we will also be producing a questionnaire for parents/carers which will be available shortly on our website. If you are able to complete the questionnaire then I would be grateful. The link will go live on Wednesday 26th April and will be available until Tuesday 2nd May. Thank you and once this goes live, there will also be hard copies available from reception.

#### KEY DATES

As always, key dates are published on our website and dates for exams for Years 11, 12 and 13 are also online. However, you may like to make a note of the following dates for your diary:

Cont/d...

Your weekly link with the school

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21st April 2017

### DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

Joseph, Kayleigh, Annabelle, Bradley, Ezmee & Harry (7MLw)  
Jorja & Mollie (7CCa)

Pupil Services

### THANK YOU

JAKE GIBSON (11NSH)

FOR DONATING A LARGE QUANTITY OF HIGH QUALITY CARD FOR USE IN GRAPHICS & RESISTANT MATERIALS

## Book of the Week

BOY X  
by Dan Smith

Ash wakes up to discover he has been drugged, kidnapped and taken to a remote tropical island. What is going on? Why have his senses all heightened and why has his Mum been infected with a deadly virus? Ash must escape to save her, but he has only 24 hours to do it and the jungle is filled with plants and creatures like no other, and his captors want him back. An exciting, action-packed, adrenalin-drenched read!



WINNER!  
ESSEX BOOK  
AWARD 2016/17



### Are you aged 14 and over?

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
to help children take part in the  
**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2017**  
in libraries during the summer holidays.

**INTERESTED?**

Apply online at [libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

Closing date: **Friday 2 June**. Apply early to secure your first library choice.



### PTA LOTTO WINNERS

DELAYED DRAW FROM FEBRUARY HALF-TERM:

1st: Richard Bradley  
2nd: Grace Smart  
3rd: Jackie Phillips

EASTER DRAW:

1st: Andy Hodgkinson  
2nd: Paula Steadman  
3rd: Maria Lane



### KEY DATES

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday  
Tuesday 2nd May - Year 10 pupils return from work experience  
Thursday 11th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening  
Monday 15th May - Year 12 AS Revision School begins  
Friday 26th May - last day of term (school ends at the normal time of 3pm)

### Parents' Time

A member of the Leadership Team will be available to see parents without appointment:

9:00am - 9:45am Monday - Friday  
5:00pm - 5:45pm Thursdays



NPQH Leadership Development School  
National College  
The Leadership Group of Schools  
and Child Care Services



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold



### Rebecca Godfrey reporting...

Sweyne Park historians have had another busy and exciting year, exploring various aspects of the past and taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities. Our GCSE and A Level students have also been working hard towards their upcoming exams and we have seen many fantastic examples of high-quality work across year groups.

Some of the highlights of the year...

#### Year 12 trip to Hampton Court

Our AS History students had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Hampton Court Palace as part of their AS studies on the Tudors.



Pupils undertook a workshop investigating the so called 'Mid-Tudor Crisis' of the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I, as well as getting a tour of the palace itself. The pupils were able to develop their knowledge, learning some of the key historical events that have taken place within the palace walls. Following the workshop, pupils were able to explore the palace and grounds, attempt the famous maze and of course peruse the gift shop! Both pupils and staff had an excellent day, made extra special by the glorious sunshine, and all enjoyed bringing the past to life within the walls of such a wonderful building. We even found our very own Henry with his six wives...



## History Department

With the opening of Rayleigh's new town museum, the History Hunters couldn't miss out on the opportunity to visit and have a grand tour led by local historian and Chairman of the museum, Mike Davies.

"The museum was extremely fascinating. The history of Rayleigh is really interesting and we learnt about Rayleigh's contribution through the two World Wars." *Molly, Year 8*



This term we are very interested to explore and celebrate the 'hidden histories' at Sweyne Park. We would like to invite all pupils who have a 'hidden history' such as a family story or a special interest or hobby to share their story with their history teacher so that we can showcase these during the term.

A massive well done to all historians for another fantastic year, and the very best of luck to everyone about to sit exams.

## History Hunters

Project on Native Americans - researching key figures, beliefs and making and designing tepees and Totem Poles.

